

Draft of Report of Duxbury Beach Committee
to be Rendered at Special Town Meeting

In keeping with action of the special town meeting of August 30, 1930, the undersigned were appointed by the Moderator as a Committee to study and report with recommendations on the various matters pertaining to the Duxbury Beach. We have studied all of the records relating to the subject, held numerous meetings, and have been fortunate in receiving many constructive suggestions from interested citizens. This report will record the findings and recommendations which have resulted from our work.

There are a few fundamental phases of the problem on which we find a nearly general agreement as follows:

1. Traffic relating to the general use of the beach, particularly on week-ends and holidays, is already really unduly burdensome on the town, and an unreasonable inconvenience to a substantial number of its residents;
2. That these conditions would be materially increased by the State's taking of the beach, and that, therefore, if the beach is to be so taken, the main entrance to and exit from the beach should be by a northerly approach, not using the main streets of the town;
3. That all expenses relating to the taking and development of the beach by the State should be borne by the State;
4. That the beach is highly valuable to the people of Duxbury as well as to the people of the State as a whole, and nothing should be done which will limit the use by, or render the beach less attractive to, the people of Duxbury;
5. That Duxbury people under present conditions get but little use of the beach on week-ends and holidays, and this condition should be corrected;

Your Committee endorses all of the above principles. On many questions of details and methods, we find a natural difference of opinion. We have tried to give fair consideration to these different views, and to arrive at conclusions which should be of benefit to the people as a whole. We do not think it possible to design a plan which in all of its details will satisfy every individual. We hope that each person will see

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the need of modifying his individual views to the end of joining in a plan on which general agreement can be obtained.

The general problem divides itself naturally into two parts:-

1. The position to be put forward on behalf of the town in regard to the State's taking of Duxbury beach.
2. Steps that may be taken immediately without waiting action by the State.

As to the first part of the problem, we recommend that the town's position should be as follows:

1. Recognizing the need for beach reservations open to the people of the State as a whole, the people of Duxbury do not oppose taking by the State of whatever part of Duxbury beach may be necessary for this purpose and under reasonable conditions;
2. They hope the Commonwealth will, as far as possible, keep the beach in its natural state and avoid commercial exploitation of it;
3. They hope, too, that only part of the beach will be required for the State's purposes, and that some part of the southern section may be available to the town of Duxbury as a park, if the town later wishes to make such an acquisition;
4. The town has distinct characteristics which would be destroyed if the traffic to and from the reservation were to be run through its main streets, and, therefore, they recommend that the entrance to and the exit from said reservation shall be from outside of the town proper by what has been termed the northern approach;
5. They recommend that the State in planning its northern approach should give consideration not only to the development of the road recommended in the State Commission's report, but also to the possibility of developing a new road over the marshes, with the possibility of the two routes being developed as a loop;
6. That all expenses pertaining to the reservation and the approaches thereto should be borne by the State because the development will be for the people of the State as a whole, and not beneficial to the people of Duxbury, who, if they felt free to consider only their own preferences, would not care to have the development;

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7. That if and when the State establishes a reservation, the Legislature enact whatever legislation is necessary to return the ownership of Powder Point bridge to the town of Duxbury so that its entire control (subject to the usual limitations pertaining to such structures) will be in the hands of the town:

We believe it likely that some time will elapse before definite action is taken by the State, so it is important that numerous phases of the problem should receive immediate attention. Many of the things which demand attention can be corrected by action within the power of the town and other interests who are free to act. It is on these points we urge immediate action. To this end we recommend the following plan:

1. Under the town's policing power, and to eliminate traffic jams and avoid real danger of catastrophe, the town ban parking on Powder Point bridge and on the streets adjacent to the town end of said bridge, this rule not to apply to the limited area now comprised in the town landing. *also North approach*
2. That the Town request the co-operation of the Duxbury Beach Associates in the solution of these problems, asking that they develop at their expense:
 - (a) a small parking space at the beach end of the bridge to be open without charge for use by Duxbury residents only; and,
 - (b) a large parking space at the northern end of the beach, with comfort stations and (perhaps) a bathhouse and refreshment stand, for use by the people of the State generally.
3. The Town to agree that in return for such co-operation it will
 - (a) Police the parking spaces
 - (b) Extend the present road up to the large parking space to be developed at the northern end of the beach

We believe this plan will result in diverting from the main streets of the town to the northern approach the main part of the traffic and congestion developed by the use of the beach by people from out of town; that it will remove the nuisances which have grown up at the Powder Point end of the bridge; that it will largely eliminate the real danger from catastrophe now present through parking on the bridge; that it will divert the

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crowds to the northern end of the beach, leaving the southern end for more general use by people of Duxbury; that the people of Duxbury will be able to make more use of the beach under this plan than they can today, and with greater convenience and less crowding; that it keeps every real privilege which Duxbury has and adds to their value. The plan does not solve all phases of the problem, but very few major problems can be solved all at one time. We think this will be a long step in the right direction.

Your Committee has asked the Duxbury Beach Associates whether they will co-operate in the plan set forth above. They are naturally reluctant to raise and spend a substantial amount of money as required by this plan. Nevertheless, recognizing the importance of the problem, they have indicated that if it is the wish of the town generally, they will do their part in carrying out this plan.

So many townspeople have been of help to the Committee in its work that it is perhaps impossible to mention them all, though they all have our sincere appreciation. The Committee members have been willing to bear individually such few incidental expenses as have been incurred, so we have not found it necessary to use any part of the appropriation of \$500. voted at the town meeting of August 30th.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin F. Goodrich, Chairman

Louis J. Hunter

Edmund S. Kelley

Edward S. O'Neil

William W. Radcliffe